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**[EXTERNAL] comments ANWR oil and gas development**

1 message

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Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 8:28 AM

To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Subject: Comments-ANWR Leasing for Oil and Gas

I am a scientist with over 30 years of teaching and research experience in biology, with a specialty in pollution impacts on humans and ecosystems. I strongly advise against the plan to lease the coastal plain for oil and gas development.. The plan describes an initial development of 2,000 acres and sale of leases for at least 800,000 acres. This is half of the coastal plain, the ecological heart of the reserve. Many species in the region exist only because of the natural health of the coastal plain. I have several reasons to drop this plan:

1. Normal operations of oil and gas development will bring physical disturbances and pollution, and accidents are highly likely in the extreme environment and remote location. Impacts of normal operations and accidents will last decades.
2. Extraction of the fossil fuels in this location will not make America energy independent because fossil fuels are a world commodity.
3. Oil and gas extraction is a harmful boom and bust economy that ruins communities. We have experienced this directly in SW Pennsylvania when a slight shift the cost:benefit shut down operations in fracking in our area of Pennsylvania and left people unemployed. Fossil extraction in the Arctic is even more expensive than in PA and even slight increases in costs will leave people and operations in limbo. was predicted to "break even" for costs: revenues. This does not help Americans. Companies working in this field are multi-nationals, so we do not get much of their revenues or taxes.
4. The Dept of the Interior has limited resources and should not waste them on this project. For example, the required Environmental Impacts Statement will consume extensive resources and not serve long-term planning of ANWR because the rapidly changing climate of the arctic limits predictions of animal health, industry actions, etc.
- 5 The Department of the Interior would be wiser to put its efforts to help plan clean renewable energy on public lands

Thank you for considering my comments.

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